

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
  - a. an analgesic selected from the group consisting of morphine, meperidine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, propoxyphene, pentazocine, levorphanol and combinations thereof; and,
  - b. a stool softener.
2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a non-opioid analgesic.
3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises about 10 mg to about 2000 mg of acetaminophen.
4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises about 325 mg to about 750 mg of acetaminophen.
5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the stool softener is selected from the group consisting of docusate, poloxamer 188, psyllium, methylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, polycarbophil, bisacodyl, castor oil, magnesium citrate, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium sulfate, dibasic sodium phosphate, monobasic sodium phosphate, sodium biphosphate and combinations thereof.
6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the stool softener comprises from about 0.1 grams to about 10.0 grams of psyllium.
7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the stool softener comprises from about 0.3 gram to about 0.75 gram of psyllium.
8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the stool softener comprises from about 10 mg to about 300 mg of docusate.
9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the stool softener comprises from about 50 mg to about 100 mg of docusate.
10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, formulated as at least one member of the group consisting of an oral solution, oral syrup, soft gelatin capsule, hard gelatin capsule, tablet, capsule and sterile packaged powder.
11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a sustained release carrier that causes the analgesic to be released over a time period of about 4 to about 16 hours

when orally administered to a human patient.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
  - a. an opioid analgesic; and,
  - b. at least about 50 mg of docusate.
13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, further comprising a non-opioid analgesic.
14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the non-opioid analgesic is about 10 mg to about 2000 mg of acetaminophen.
15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the non-opioid analgesic is about 325 mg to about 750 mg of acetaminophen.
16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein the composition comprises from about 50 mg to about 300 mg of docusate.
17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients.
18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, formulated as at least one member of the group consisting of an oral solution, oral syrup, soft gelatin capsule, hard gelatin capsule, tablet, capsule and sterile packaged powder.
19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, further comprising a sustained release carrier that causes the opioid to be released over a time period of about 8 to about 24 hours when orally administered to a human patient.
20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein the opioid analgesic comprises codeine.

21. A method of preventing constipation during analgesic use comprising administration of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a stool softener with an analgesic in a single oral dosage form, wherein said analgesic is selected from the group consisting of morphine, meperidine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, propoxyphene, pentazocine, levorphanol, acetaminophen and combinations thereof.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising a non-opioid analgesic.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises from about 10 mg to about 2000 mg of acetaminophen.
24. The method of claim 22, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises from about 325 mg to about 750 mg of acetaminophen.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the stool softener is selected from the group consisting of docusate, poloxamer 188, psyllium, methylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, polycarbophil, bisacodyl, castor oil, magnesium citrate, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium sulfate, dibasic sodium phosphate, monobasic sodium phosphate, sodium biphosphate and a combination thereof.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein the stool softener is from about 0.1 gram to about 10.0 grams of psyllium.
27. The method of claim 21, wherein the stool softener is from about 0.5 gram of psyllium.
28. The method of claim 21, wherein the stool softener is from about 25 mg to about 200 mg of docusate.
29. The method of claim 21, wherein the stool softener is from about 50 mg to about 100 mg of docusate.
30. The method of claim 21, wherein the single oral dosage form further comprises a sustained release carrier that causes the analgesic to be released over a time period of about 8 to about 24 hours when orally administered to a human patient.
31. The method of claim 21, wherein the single oral dosage form is administered on an empty stomach.
32. The method of claim 21, wherein the single oral dosage form is administered with food.

33. A method of preventing constipation during analgesic use comprising administration of a single solid dosage form comprising:
- a. an opioid analgesic; and,
  - b. at least about 50 mg of docusate.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein the single solid dosage form further comprises a non-opioid analgesic.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises about 10 mg to about 2000 mg of acetaminophen.
36. The method of claim 34, wherein the non-opioid analgesic comprises about 325 mg to about 750 mg of acetaminophen.
37. The method of claim 33, wherein the single oral dosage form comprises from about 50 mg to about 300 mg of docusate.
38. The method of claim 33, wherein the single oral dosage form further comprises one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients.
39. The method of claim 33, wherein the single oral dosage form further comprises a sustained release carrier that causes the analgesic to be released over a time period of about 8 to about 24 hours when orally administered to a human patient.
40. The method of claim 33, wherein the opioid analgesic is codeine.